

Application No. 09/674,167  
Response to Office Communication dated December 10, 2003  
January 6, 2004

REMARKS

By this amendment, currently, claims 28-41 are pending in the application.

The Examiner stated that the communication filed on September 22, 2003 was not deemed to be fully responsive to the office action dated June 18, 2003 because the communication failed to comply with a requirement contained in the office action. The Examiner requested the Assignee to either show that the conflicting inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made or to name the prior inventor of the conflicting subject matter.

The Assignees hereby state through their legal representative that the conflicting inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made.

In view of foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

Application No. 09/674,167  
Response to Office Communication dated December 10, 2003  
January 6, 2004

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Randolph A. Smith  
Reg. No. 32,548

Date: January 6, 2004

**SMITH PATENT OFFICE**  
1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20006-3433  
Telephone: 202/530-5900  
Facsimile: 202/530-5902  
Nambu010604